

21 March, 2001

RAJYA SABHA

**Solving rural unemployment through handicraft**

2847. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes for solving unemployment among the villagers who are adept in handicrafts;

(b) the existing schemes in regard to improvement of handicrafts in villages; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to solve rural unemployment by encouraging handicrafts in the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The schemes of the Government to solve unemployment among the villages who are adept in handicraft include training scheme through Central/State Corporations/Apex Societies/Cooperatives/Voluntary Organisations in crafts other than Carpet (Training Scheme 'A'), Apprenticeship Training Scheme 'C', training for trainers and master craftsman; training through other organisation (Scheme 'B') carpet weaving; setting up of Craft Development Centers/Common Facility Centers and exhibition.

(b) The existing scheme to improve handicraft in the country including in villages are training; marketing support; design development; exhibition and publicity; workshop-cum-housing; group insurance and health package.

(c) The action proposed to be taken to solve rural employment by encouraging handicraft in the villages include; strengthening of existing schemes of the Government and identifying Craft Cluster with a view to make them self sustainable for integrated craft cluster development.